



In re App. 09/157,697
Serial No. 09/157,697

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FEB 14 2003
Technology Center 2100

were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Larson and DeSimone in view of Meubus et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,185,565. Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Larson-DeSimone-Meubus in view of Lister et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,167,446. Claims 6, 8, 9, 11-14, 16, 18, 19, 23, 24, 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over a combination of Larson, DeSimone, Meubus, and Lister further in view of Kumar, U.S. Patent No. 6,163,531.

The applicants believe that neither Larson nor DeSimone, nor a combination of these patents teaches the invention described in independent claims 1, 10, 20 and 25. In view of the following remarks concerning these claims, favorable reconsideration of this application is requested. The rejected dependent claims recite subject matter that applicants believe is patentable independent of the status of their respective independent claims. However, the following remarks are aimed primarily at the features of the independent claims since the dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 20 and 25

With respect to independent claims 20 and 25, the applicants respectfully traverse the anticipation rejections of these claims. These claims describe a client computer to perform and a computer readable medium to facilitate a query of "a first server, disposed to manage data of a first type including a server list," and a further query of "each server on the server list to learn of at least one conference maintained by each server" (claim 20, similar language can be found in claim 25). The claims thus delineate a system comprising two types of servers, one maintaining a list of the other. Thus, users may query a known first server maintaining a relatively static list of servers disposed to maintain conference data. Based on the results of this query, users may then request

¹ The Office appears to have overlooked claim 30. It is respectfully requested that claim 30 be examined and allowed for the applicable reasons stated herein.

In re Appln. of Byrisetty et al.
Serial No. 09/157,697

dynamic conference data from the servers in that list. This arrangement directs appropriate loads to both types of servers and solves problems of scale in the prior art.

In contrast, Larson et al. describes a method of dynamically establishing a plurality of conferences with a persistent conference object that maintains and manages the various conferences. Implicitly, a single server maintains and manages access to conference information. More significantly, nothing in Larson teaches or suggests another server maintaining a list of these conference-maintaining servers. The Office action acknowledges this limitation on page 4: "Larson does not explicitly teach two servers, a first type of server for maintaining a conference and a list of users and a second type of server to maintain a list of the first type of servers." As Larson does not even teach a system containing two servers, Larson plainly cannot be understood to teach a computer program for querying such servers. Therefore, Larson fails to anticipate each limitation of claims 20 and 25, and these independent claims should be allowed.

Request For Clarification Regarding Rejections of Claims 20 and 25

In the event that the rejections of claims 20 and 25 based on Larson et al. are maintained, clarification of the rejections is solicited to expedite prosecution of this case. For example, it is requested, if the claim limitations are again said to be found in the reference, that the alleged teachings be more precisely identified, rather simply by identifying large portions of text. What is alleged to comprise the first server? What exactly is alleged to comprise the second? What teachings demonstrate the querying of these servers, and for what information? Such clarity should serve to expedite an accurate discussion between the applicants and the Office.

Claims 1 and 10

Applicants also respectfully traverse the rejections of independent claims 1 and 10 as unpatentable over Larson in view of DeSimone. These claims contain language similar to that described above with respect to claims 20 and 25, describing two types of servers, “the first type disposed to manage data of a first type including maintaining at least one conference,” and the other “disposed to manage data of a second type including storing a list of the at least one servers of the first type” (claim 1, similar language can be found in claim 10). While DeSimone does teach two types of servers, these servers do not manage data types similar to those described in the claims, and therefore do not teach the invention, even in combination with Larson, as defined by these claims.

DeSimone’s invention relates to the implementation of a conferencing network using ATM addressing. To facilitate this process, one server, a Directory Server, originates, establishes and maintains conferences, and assigns the ATM address of a second server to a conference. This second server, a MARS server, provides a translation service to the ATM client terminals in the conference, allowing them to actively participate. It does not provide any of the querying functionality as recited in the claims. Comparing DeSimone to the applicants’ invention described in claims 1 and 10 would thus require the Directory Server, which is a single server, to play the role of both the first type of server and the second type of server, maintaining the conference and maintaining a list of servers. *See* Col. 7, line 50 - Col. 8, line 24. Thus, contrary to the assertion presented in the Office action, DeSimone does not teach two different servers storing different types of queryable conference-related data, but instead teaches one server, providing a number of different services. DeSimone does not, as a result, achieve the dynamic-static separation necessary to further the goals of the present invention.

Claims 1 and 10 also describe a query by a client of “the server of the second type to learn of the server of the first type.” DeSimone organizes the interactions between server and client

In re Appln. of Byrisetty et al.
Serial No. 09/157,697

differently. DeSimone's client first requests to join a conference maintained on a first server and is then *assigned* a second server that facilitates ATM communication. *See* Col. 7, line 64 – Col. 8, line 12. As a result of this difference, DeSimone's clients do not undertake the burden of finding an appropriate MARS server from the list of servers, but instead leave that burden with the Directory Server. In order to decrease scaling problems caused by over-reliance on network servers, the server described in claims 1 and 10 merely supplies a list of conferencing servers, leaving the clients to communicate separately with each server.

Each of claims 1 and 10 also describes a query by a client of "each server on the server list to learn of the at least one conference maintained by each server." In other words, a client must query each server on the server list, to search for the appropriate conference that it wishes to join. In contrast, DeSimone's client has already been assigned to, and has joined, a conference before it contacts the MARS server, and therefore has no reason to issue such a query. Thus, one of the principal advantages of the applicants' invention, allowing conferencing by clients that do not know *ex ante* the addresses of the servers maintaining the conferences, is not duplicated by DeSimone's implementation. For the above reasons, the combination of DeSimone and Larson fails to teach all of the limitations present in claims 1 and 10, and therefore does not render these claims obvious.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the Office has not presented any legally acceptable motivation in the art for the asserted combination of DeSimone and Larson. The stated motivation to combine is not only factually inaccurate but would be insufficient even if it were not factually inaccurate. It is stated that the combination would be obvious to incorporate "multiple server conference tracking as taught by DeSimone" into Larson for "enhancing network efficiency." This motivation seems to mimic the application itself, and does not therefore represent a motivation found outside of the application itself, as is legally required. Moreover, it is inaccurate to state that DeSimone teaches multiple server conference tracking (if that phrase is meant to describe the

In re Appln. of Byrisetty et al.
Serial No. 09/157,697

multiple server function of the present claims), since, as discussed above, it manifestly does not. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that for this further reason, claims 1 and 10 are patentable over the prior art and any proper combination of prior art.

The Dependent Claims

The remaining claims are each dependent upon one of claims 1, 10, 20 or 25. Although they recite features that further patentably distinguish the claimed invention of each from the prior art, they are at least allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of dependent claims 2-9, 12-19, 21, 23-24, and 27-29 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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**PENDING CLAIMS AS OF
RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED NOVEMBER 8, 2002**

1. A system comprising:
at least one server of a first type, each of the at least one servers of the first type disposed to manage data of a first type including maintaining at least one conference and a list of users;
a server of a second type disposed to manage data of a second type including storing a list of the at least one servers of the first type; and
a client to query the server of the second type to obtain the server list and to query each server on the server list to learn of the at least one conference maintained by each server.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the client queries each server on the server list to learn of the list of users maintained by each server.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the server of the second type further is to maintain a list of users, and the client further is to query the server of the second type to learn of the list of users maintained by the server.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein the first type comprises an Internet Locator Service (ILS) type of server.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein the second type comprises a NT Directory Server (NTDS) type of server.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein the client comprises:
a first module to find and register the at least one server of the first type and the server of the second type; and,
a second module to connect and authenticate with the at least one server of the first type and the server of the second type.
7. The system of claim 1, wherein the client comprises:
a conference object for each conference learned of by the client, each object storing information regarding a conference; and,



In re App. of Byrisetty et al.
Serial No. 09/157,697

RECEIVED
FEB 14 2003
Technology Center 2100

a user object for each user learned of by the client, each object storing information regarding a user.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the client comprises:

a security module to encrypt and authenticate each conference object and each user object; and,

a parser module to parse conference information received from the at least one server of the first type.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the conference information is in accordance with the Session Description Protocol (SDP).

10. A method for determining information concerning conferences handled by a server of a first type based on configuration data maintained by a server of a second type comprising the steps of:

creating and publishing a conference by a first client to the server of the first type;
querying by a second client the server of the second type to learn of the server of the first type; and,

querying by the second client of the server of the first type to learn of the conference published by the first client.

12. The method of claim 10, further comprising joining by the second client of the conference published by the first client.

13. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of querying by the second client of the server of the second type for an identification of the first client.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

querying by the first client of the server of the second type for an identification of the first client;

modifying by the first client of information stored in a user object regarding the first client; and,

updating by the first client of the user object with the server of the second type.

15. The method of claim 13, further comprising calling by the second client of the first client.
16. The method of claim 10, further comprising querying by the second client of the server of the first type for the first client.
17. The method of claim 16, further comprising:
querying by the first client of the server of the first type for the first client;
modifying by the first client of information stored in a user object regarding the first client; and,
updating by the first client of the user object with the server of the first type.
18. The method of claim 16, further comprising calling by the second client of the first client.
19. The method of claim 10, wherein the first type comprises an internet Locator Service (ILS) type of server, and the second type comprises an NT Directory Server (NTDS) type of server.
20. A client computer comprising:
a processor;
a computer-readable medium; and,
a computer program executed by the processor from the medium to query a first server, disposed to manage data of a first type including a server list, to obtain the server list maintained by the first server and a list of users maintained by the first server and to query each server on the server list to learn of at least one conference maintained by each server on the server list.
21. The client computer of claim 20, wherein the computer program further is to query each server on the server list to learn of a list of users maintained by each server on the server list.
23. The client computer of claim 20, wherein the computer program comprises:
means for finding and registering the first server and each server on the server list;
means for connecting and authenticating with the first server and each server on the server list;

means for storing information regarding each conference learned of by the client; and,
means for storing information regarding each user learned of by the client.

24. The client computer of claim 23, wherein the computer program further comprises:
means for encrypting and authenticating the means for storing information regarding each conference learned of by the client and means for storing information regarding each user learned of by the client; and,

means for parsing conference information received by each server on the server list.

25. A computer-readable medium having a computer program stored thereon for execution on a computer to query a first server, disposed to manage data of a first type including a server list and a list of users maintained by each server on the server list, to obtain the server list and to query each server on the server list to learn of at least one conference maintained by each server on the server list.

27. The medium of claim 25, wherein the program further is to query the first server to learn of a list of users maintained by the first server.

28. The medium of claim 25, wherein the program comprises:

means for finding and registering the first server and each server on the server list;

means for connecting and authenticating with the first server and each server on the

server list;

means for storing information regarding each conference learned of by the client;

means for storing information regarding each user learned of by the client;

means for encrypting and authenticating the means for storing information regarding each conference learned of by the client and means for storing information regarding each user learned of by the client; and,

means for parsing conference information received each server on the server list.

29. The invention as in claim 1 wherein the data of the first type is dynamic data and the data of the second type is static data.

In re Appln. of Byrisetty et al.
Serial No. 09/157,697

30. The invention as in claim 10 wherein the server of the first type is disposed to handle dynamic data and the server of the second type is disposed to handle static data.